

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
/080 W

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R 010849Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9786
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDUE
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11541

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV ECON EINV JA IN BG NP
SUBJECT: JAPANESE FONMIN'S VISIT TO BANGLADESH, INDIA AND NEPAL

REF: A. NEW DELHI 10678 (NOTAL)
B. KATHMANDU 3081 (NOTAL)
C. DACCA 3988 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: JAPANESE FONMIN HATOYAMA TRAVELED TO
BANGLADESH, INDIA AND NEPAL JULY 17-24. JOURNEY APPEARS TO
HAVE ACCOMPLISHED JAPANESE OBJECTIVE OF MENDING FENCES WITH
SUBCONTINENT NATIONS RARELY VISITED BY RANKING JAPANESE
OFFICIALS AND WHOSE GOVERNMENTS ARE AWARE OF STRONG INTEREST
GOJ RECENTLY HAS SHOWN IN OTHER AREAS OF ASIA. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS JULY 28, FONOFF SOUTHWEST
ASIA DIVDIR OHARA, WHO ACCOMPANIED JAPANESE FONMIN HATOYAMA
ON LATTER'S JULY 17-24 SUBCONTINENT TRIP, CHARACTERIZED
VISIT AS OUTGROWTH OF FEELING WITHIN GOJ THAT INDIAN
SUBCONTINENT HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVING ADEQUATE ATTENTION IN
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FOREIGN POLICY IN LAST FEW YEARS, ESPECIALLY IN COMPARISON
WITH MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. (HOWEVER, OHARA
ASSERTED THAT FACT VISIT CAME JUST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO PM
FUKUDA'S JOURNEY TO ASEAN CAPITALS AND RANGOON WAS
SIMPLY COINCIDENTAL.) JAPANESE WERE PARTICULARLY
INTERESTED IN MEETING NEW DESAI GOVERNMENT, AND DECIDED
TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO WARM INVITATION LETTER SENT BY

INDIAN FONMIN VAJPAYEE. OHARA NOTED THAT THIS WAS FIRST VISIT OF JAPANESE FONMIN TO INDIA IN 7 YEARS AND FIRST VISIT EVER BY JAPANESE FONMIN TO NEPAL AND BANGLADESH. FONOFF BELIEVES MISSION ACHIEVED DESIRED RESULTS, IN PARTICULAR IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND INDIA. WE AGREE WITH NEW DELHI'S ASSESSMENT (REF A) THAT FACT VISIT TOOK PLACE WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS.

3. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WAS IMPORTANT TOPIC IN CONVERSATIONS WITH ALL THREE GOVERNMENTS. NEW DELHI TALKS AFFORDED OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW INDIAN ADMINISTRATION TO PLACE BEFORE GOJ VARIOUS REQUESTS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AND THESE ARE NOW UNDER STUDY WITHIN JAPANESE BUREAUCRACY. IMMEDIATE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO DISPATCH JAPANESE TEAM OF EXPERTS TO SURVEY SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE INDUSTRIES IN INDIA (REF A). ALSO, AN INDIAN MISSION IS TO VISIT JAPAN TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH JAPANESE PRIVATE SECTOR MIGHT COOPERATE WITH INDIANS ON CAPITAL PROJECTS BOTH IN INDIA AND IN THIRD COUNTRIES INCLUDING SOME MIDDLE EASTERN STATES.

4. HATOYAMA TOOK OCCASION OF DACCA VISIT TO MAKE PUBLIC SUMS WHICH JAPAN HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE BANGLADESH DURING FY 1977/78 FOR COMMODITY AID, FOOD AID, AND PROJECT AID AS WELL AS PLANS FOR TECHNICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSISTANCE AND EXCHANGE OF PERSONS DURING SAME PERIOD (REF C). IN KATHMANDU, JAPANESE AGREED TO CONSIDER NEPALI REQUEST FOR QASISTANCE ON SECOND STAGE OF KULIKHANI HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. JAPAN'S FUNDS COMMITTED FOR FIRST STAGE OF PROJECT HAVE YET TO BE DISBURSED, HOWEVER.

5. ON INDIAN-U.S. RELATIONS, OHARA STATED GOJ WAS "VERY KEEN" TO DEEPEN TIES. ACCORDING TO OHARA, VAJPAYEE COMMENTED REPEATEDLY HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO DEVELOPING BETTER RELATIONS WITH U.S. CONCERNING NEPAL'S DESIRE TO HAVE GOJ ENDORSE ITS ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL (REF B), OHARA STATED THAT IN DEFERENCE TO INDIAN SENSIBILITIES, JAPAN WOULD NOT DO SO WHILE INDIA REMAINED OPPOSED.
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